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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/789,886	02/27/2004	John W. Meyer	647.06	9323
7590	03/14/2006		EXAMINER	
Richard C. Conover P.O. Box 1329 Bozeman, MT 59771-1329				WILLATT, STEPHANIE L
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3732

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SOP

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/789,886	MEYER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephanie L. Willatt	3732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman (US 4,452,381) in view of Jordan (US 3,338,482) and Price (US 5,772,069).

Freeman discloses a container (10) with an elongate, hollow, bent spout. The spout has an opening (channel 34) at a first end and internal threads (18) at a second end, which mate with external threads on the container neck, as shown in Figures 1 and

2. The bent portion of the spout (spout is bent at the base of the pouring spout 30) is less than 1/3rd of the length of the remainder of the spout. The spout includes a gripping area (22) directly beneath the bent portion, which includes finger grips (roughened areas 52). The main body portion of the spout includes an enlarged portion at the second end. The female threaded portion (18) is positioned within the enlarged portion.

Freeman does not disclose that the bent portion of the spout is perpendicular with the longitudinal axis of the bottle. Jordan discloses a spout (15) with a bent portion that is perpendicular with the longitudinal axis of the bottle. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the

spout of Freeman perpendicular, as taught by Jordan, so that the bottle does not have to be tilted as much to pour fluent material from it.

Freeman does not disclose a holder for the container. Price discloses a holder (500) for a container (cup 100). The holder (500) has a mounting bracket (plate 570). The holder (500) has a channel extending circumscribing the bottom of the holder. A flange of the container (cup 100) fits in the channel, as discussed in column 2, lines 23-36. The bottom of the holder (500) has a shape corresponding with the shape of the bottom of the container (cup 100). The bottom of the holder (500) has cutouts between the ribs (562). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a holder for Freeman's container in order to provide a place for the container to rest when not in use, as taught by Price.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kozlowski discloses a bent spout.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie L. Willatt whose telephone number is (571) 272-4721. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin P. Shaver can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



slw



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